



ELECTION FAQ

This document will be updated regularly. If you can't find the answer to an election-related question on the Elections & Voting webpage, please submit questions or your suggestions for webpage updates using [this form](#).

Why am I an Inactive Voter and what do I do?

The Town Clerk has mailed postcards to voters who did not return the census this year. Under state law, Town Clerks are required to flag voters who have not confirmed their current residence. These voters are considered inactive voters until we receive the confirmation postcard back or until the voter applies for a ballot in the mail (which confirms their current residence). Inactive voters can always vote but will be asked to complete a form and show proof of residence when they vote.

If I lose the postcard to re-activate my Active Voter status?

You can fill out a blank census form, print, sign and send to the Town Clerk's Office. The census form can be found on the Town Clerk's webpage under

How do I prove residence when I go to vote?

An ID or any recent document (bank statement, utility bill, letter from a school or government agency) that has your name and the address on the voter list. It can be shown to election workers on a smart phone. We simply need to confirm your residence and that it matches the address on the voter list.

What if I don't have proof of residence when I vote?

You can still vote. After completing the form with the Warden, you will be asked to take an oath that you live at the address provided and are eligible to vote. A note will be made on your ballot and then you can cast your ballot as usual. The marked ballots are counted on Election Day and are only re-examined if there is a recount or if a court orders that the ballots be re-examined. At

What is the difference between Absentee and Vote by Mail?

For most voters there is very little practical difference, and the default option will be to Vote by Mail. People who are a. voting from prison, b. living overseas, c. permanently disabled, or d. requesting an emergency ballot because they are in a healthcare facility and suddenly unable to vote in person are the only people who must apply to vote absentee. Everyone else who wishes to vote by mail can use the Vote by Mail application or submit a similar signed note.

Why do I have to choose a party on the applications?

The State Primary on September 6 is for each party to choose who will represent the party of the ballot in November. Voters who are registered for a particular party can only vote that party ballot. We have two recognized parties in Massachusetts now: Democratic and Republican. Voters who are Unenrolled are registered to vote, but not enrolled in a particular party. They choose at each primary election which party ballot they will vote.

How do I submit applications to vote by mail?

The postcards mailed by Elections Division are postage paid to return by mail. You can submit any signed note or official application by mail, email of a scan or photo, Town Hall drop box, or ballot drop box when they are installed in mid-August. The mailing address and email address are on the letterhead of this document. Address to Town Clerk when mailing or using the Town Hall drop box.

What is the deadline for applying to vote by mail?

For the September Primary, applications must be in the Town Clerk's Office by 5 pm on Monday, August 29th and ballots will be mailed on Tuesday, August 30th. Because of the Labor Day Holiday just before the election, we do not recommend waiting that long to apply. Our local post office works very hard to prioritize ballots, but there is little chance there is time to receive a ballot in the mail and return that ballot by mail. If you can return the ballot by placing it in a ballot drop box on or before Election Day, that might work.

Can I change my mind and vote in person if I applied to vote by mail?

Once the Town Clerk's Office receives the ballot back, you have cast the ballot and may not vote in person. If we do not receive the ballot, you can choose to vote in person on election or during the in person early voting period. When the Elections Division makes Track My Ballot available, you will be able to look up your ballot status on line to confirm if the Town Clerk has received it.